

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to recite “(C) from 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of a combination of a dialkyl peroxide compound with a percarbonate compound, and” Section 112 support for this amendment is found, for example, at page 8, lines 20-24 of the specification, and in Examples 1 and 2 which employed a combination of 1,3-bis(t-butylperoxyisopropyl)benzene (which is a dialkyl peroxide compound as indicated at page 8 of the specification) with dicetyl peroxydicarbonate (which is a percarbonate compound as indicated at page 8 of the specification). No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-3 and 5 will be pending.

At page 2 of the Action, Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Oi et al., EP 1 197 501 (“Oi”) in view of Rodriguez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,221,967 (“Rodriguez”).

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Oi et al or Rodriguez et al do not disclose or render obvious the process for producing a modified ethylene-vinylcyclohexane copolymer resin of the present claimed invention.

Claim 1 is directed to a process for producing a modified ethylene-vinylcyclohexane copolymer resin which comprises steps of blending at least the components (A), (B) and (C) to produce a blend and melt-kneading the blend for 0.5 to 5 minutes.

Component (C) in Claim 1 as amended recites “a combination of a dialkyl peroxide compound with a percarbonate compound.” Neither Oi nor Rodriguez disclose or suggest such a combination of peroxide compounds. Therefore, the process of producing a modified ethylene-vinylcyclohexane copolymer resin according to Claim 1 as amended would not have been

obvious over Oi and Rodriguez since those references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection based on Oi et al EP '501 in view of Rodriguez et al '967 are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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